

September 15, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Congressman Boehner, Majority Leader Reid, and Senator McConnell:

We are writing to urge quick passage of legislation to extend several critical unemployment insurance assistance provisions.

In February, faced with a faltering economy and swelling unemployment rolls, the Administration and Congress acted quickly by extending emergency unemployment compensation, increasing unemployment benefits, providing full federal funding for extended unemployment compensation and offering assistance with temporary advances for state unemployment insurance trust funds.

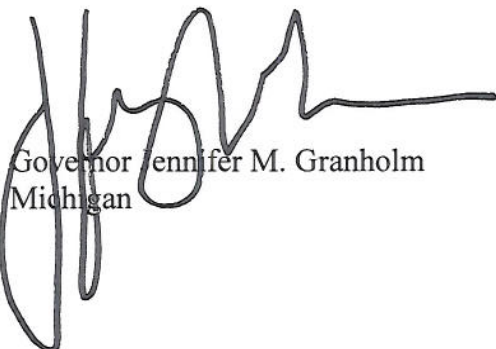
These policies have helped provide extended unemployment benefits for millions of workers affected by the recession, offered relief each month to struggling families across the country and have played a critical role in stabilizing the economy.

However, given the severity and length of this economic crisis, unless Congress acts we expect that more than 400,000 workers nationwide will exhaust their federal extended benefits by September with exhaustion rates expected to increase over the coming months.


We strongly urge immediate action to extend the vital unemployment insurance provisions contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), as well as an extension of additional emergency unemployment compensation benefits for all states to help the long-term unemployed weather this economic storm.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and we look forward to continuing to work with you to improve our nation's economy.

Sincerely,



Governor Jennifer M. Granholm  
Michigan



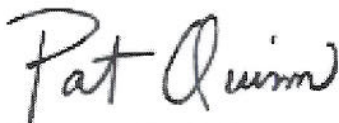
Governor Bill Ritter Jr.  
Colorado



Governor M. Jodi Rell  
Connecticut



Governor Jack Markell  
Delaware



Governor Pat Quinn  
Illinois



Governor Chester J. Culver  
Iowa



Governor Mark Parkinson  
Kansas



Governor Steven L. Beshear  
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Governor Deval Patrick  
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Governor Jon S. Corzine  
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Governor Beverly Perdue  
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Governor Ted Strickland  
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Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski  
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Governor Edward G. Rendell  
Pennsylvania



Governor M. Michel Rounds  
South Dakota



Governor Timothy M. Kaine  
Virginia



Governor Christine O. Gregoire  
Washington



Governor John P. DeLongh Jr.  
Virgin Islands



Governor Jim Doyle  
Wisconsin